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ACTION RP-10

INFO OCT-01 SR-04 10-15 ADS-00 EUR-12 NEA-07 HA-05
AID-07 IDCA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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TAGS: SREF, AF, PK, ICRC

SUBJ: APPEAL TO NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES FOR
INCREASED SUPPORT FOR ICRC/LICROSS PROGRAM OF
ASSISTANCE TO AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN.

1. ICRC AND LICROSS HAVE ISSUED APPEAL TO NATIONAL
RED CROSS SOCIETIES FOR INCREASED SUPPORT OF JOINT
PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN.
ICRC/LICROSS CIRCULAR DATED MAY 30, 1980 STATES THAT
ABOUT 10 MILLION SWISS FRANCS ARE STILL REQUIRED TO
MEET GOAL OF 14.7 MILLION SWISS FRANCS TO PROVIDE
ASSISTANCE TO 100,000 REFUGEES.

2. ABRIDGED TEXT OF CIRCULAR FOLLOWS:

THE RESPONSE OF SISTER SOCIETIES TO THE JOINT
LEAGUE/ICRC APPEAL HAS NOT SO FAR COME UP TO EXPECTATIONS.
TO DATE ONLY ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN
COVERED BY PROMISED CONTRIBUTIONS IN CASH AND KIND, BUT
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SINCE THAT DATE THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED REFUGEES IN NEED

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OF ASSISTANCE HAS STEADILY GROWN. ON 19 MAY THEY NUMBERED 763,196, OF WHICH 611,932 WERE IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE AND 151,264 IN BALUCHISTAN.

THE PAKISTAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY'S PLAN OF ACTION SETS OUT TO SUPPLY 100,000 REFUGEES WITH TENTS, BLANKETS, CLOTH OR CLOTHING, QUILTS, FOOTWEAR, SOAP AND STOVES. WITH HELP FROM THE PUNJAB AND SIND PROVINCIAL BRANCHES OF THE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY AND 22 NATIONAL SOCIETIES (SOME OF THEM ASSISTED BY THEIR GOVERNMENT), THE NATIONAL SOCIETY SENT A LARGE NUMBER OF BLANKETS, SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF CLOTHING AND SOME TENTS TO REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE. THE NUMBER OF TENTS SUPPLIED OR ABOUT TO BE SUPPLIED IS VERY FAR FROM SUFFICIENT - ONLY ABOUT 4,000 OF THE 20,000 ASKED FOR - AND A GREAT EFFORT WILL BE NEEDED TO PREVENT GREAT SUFFERING AMONG THE REFUGEES. FOR A LONG TIME TO COME TENTS WILL HAVE TOP PRIORITY; IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT REFUGEES SHOULD HAVE A TENT TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE BURNING SUMMER SUN AND THE WINTER COLD.

THE PAKISTAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY HAS SO FAR CONCENTRATED ON THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE, WHERE ITS ACTION IS CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH THE AUTHORITIES, WHO ALLOT TO IT THE CAMPS IT IS TO ASSIST. NATIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERS AND LEAGUE DELEGATES STATIONED IN PESHAWAR CONVOY RELIEF SUPPLIES TO THEIR DESTINATION AND ARE PRESENT WHEN THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED BY THE REFUGEES UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THEIR ELDERS. OTHER VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE WORKING IN BALUCHISTAN PROVINCE, BUT THE PAKISTAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXTEND ITS ACTIVITIES TO THAT PROVINCE UNTIL IT HAS SUFFICIENT

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STOCKS. MEANWHILE IT IS DOING WHAT IT CAN TO REINFORCE THE PROVINCIAL BRANCH AND FIND IT ADEQUATE HEADQUARTERS IN QUETTA.

THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT CHANGE IN THE APPEARANCE OF THE CAMPS OVER THE MONTHS. AT FIRST THEY STRAGGLED OVER LONG DISTANCES, LEAVING THE REFUGEES THE LIVING SPACE THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN USED TO; NOW THEY LOOK MORE LIKE IMMENSE VILLAGES OF TENTS PITCHED CLOSE TOGETHER - WITH A CONSEQUENT RISK OF EPIDEMICS, AS WATER

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IS SHORT AND THERE IS NEXT TO NO HYGIENE.

FOOD IS SUPPLIED - WITH OCCASIONAL DELAYS - BY THE AUTHORITIES WITH THE HELP OF AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. REFUGEES ARE ALLOWED MONTHLY 50 RUPEES EACH TO COVER THEIR VITAL NEEDS.

THE LEAGUE DELEGATION IS LED BY MR D. JENKINS OF THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY. THE MISSION OF THE FIRST TWO FIELD DELEGATES FINISHED AT THE END OF APRIL; MR. S. KANN OF THE DANISH RED CROSS, A LOGISTICS EXPERT, DEALT WITH WARE-HOUSING AND TRANSPORT, AND MR. D. ELLAWAY OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY WHO HAS PARAMEDICAL TRAINING, WAS SECONDED TO THE ICRC FOR THREE WEEKS AS ADMINISTRATOR OF ONE OF ITS MEDICAL TEAMS. THEY WERE SUCCEEDED BY MR C. LARSSON OF THE SWEDISH RED CROSS, WHO REACHED PAKISTAN IN MARCH AND WAS ALSO SECONDED FOR A TIME TO THE ICRC THERE, AND MR J.P. KJAERSULF, ALSO A LOGISTIC EXPERT, MADE AVAILABLE BY THE DANISH RED CROSS.

THE TWO MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS RECRUITED LOCALLY BY THE ICRC HAVE BEEN OPERATIONAL SINCE 7 APRIL 1980. THEY ARE

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THE FIRST LINK IN THE CHAIN OF MOBILE TEAMS AS PLANNED BY THE HEALTH MINISTRY WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UNHCR. THE FIRST OF THEM COMPRISES A DOCTOR, A MALE NURSE AND A DRIVER AND WORKS IN THE KURRAM AREA, PAYING REGULAR VISITS TO SIX CAMPS SHELTERING ABOUT 100,000 REFUGEES. THE SECOND COMPRISES A DOCTOR, A MALE NURSE, A FEMALE NURSE, AN AUXILIARY AND A DRIVER, AND WORKS IN THE NORTH WAZIRISTAN AREA, GIVING MEDICAL CARE IN FIVE CAMPS WITH A TOTAL POPULATION OF ABOUT 60,000. BETWEEN 8 AND 30 APRIL THE TWO TEAMS TREATED 3,690 PATIENTS. THE EMERGENCY TREATMENT THEY GIVE IS OF NECESSITY SOMEWHAT SUPERFICIAL - MORE INTENSIVE CARE COULD BE GIVEN ONLY IF MORE TEAMS WERE AVAILABLE. THE ICRC DELEGATION, LED BY MR M. ZUFFEREY, HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE ARRIVAL OF MR M. HERMOD WHO IS ASSISTING DR. BRAUN AS FIELD ADMINISTRATOR. ALL THE MEDICINES USED BY THE ICRC MEDICAL TEAMS CAN BE PURCHASED LOCALLY AT A VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES, AS THE PAKISTANI PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY MANUFACTURES A VERY WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS.

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ROADS ARE BAD AND WILL PROBABLY BE WORSE IN THE RAINY SEASON; IT WILL THEREFORE NOT BE POSSIBLE TO VISIT

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SOME OF THE CAMPS UNLESS THE TEAMS ARE PROVIDED WITH A FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE, AND THE ICRC THEREFORE PLANS TO BUY TWO SUCH VEHICLES. A NUMBER OF ALTERATIONS TO THE MEDICAL PROGRAM ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION, SUCH AS THE SETTING UP OF DISPENSARIES UNDER CANVAS AND THE ENGAGEMENT OF FURTHER MEDICAL TEAMS TO LOOK AFTER A HIGHER PROPORTION OF THE REFUGEES, WHOSE NUMBERS CONTINUE TO GROW.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CIRCULAR IS TO MAKE A NEW AND URGENT APPEAL TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES TO SUPPORT AS GENEROUSLY AS THEY CAN THE RELIEF OPERATION LAUNCHED TO PROVIDE DECENT LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN. THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE FULL PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO 100,000 REFUGEES IS SFR.14,700,000 AND TO CARRY IT OUT COMPLETELY WE STILL NEED ABOUT SFR. 10,000,000.- OR GIFTS IN KIND. HELMAN

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